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*Return* \* *Thanks* (P)

23 August 1954

*OK*  
*Noted by DDH*  
*24 Aug 54*

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Lockhart

SUBJECT : Authority for DCI's Attendance and Oral Presentations at NSC Meetings

The following is submitted in answer to your request for information on the subject for General Cabell's use in his speech on 8 September to the Army War College.

1. Section 102 of the National Security Act of 1947 requires CIA, under the direction of NSC, to advise NSC in matters concerning such intelligence activities of the Government departments and agencies as relate to national security. Although there is no law stating that DCI will attend NSC meetings, his attendance at such meetings is based on the statutory authority.

2. It appears that DCI's attendance at NSC meetings prior to January 1953 was on oral invitation from the President. In a memorandum of 23 January 1953 the Executive Secretary, NSC advised NSC of President Eisenhower's decision to limit attendance at Council meetings to statutory Council members, the Chairman, JCS, the DCI, Messrs. Cutler and Lay -- others being invited on a case-by-case basis. This same memo stated that the President has directed that the first item on each regular Council meeting shall be a weekly briefing on the situation by the DCI. DCI had been briefing President Truman on Fridays immediately prior to the regular Cabinet meeting. President Eisenhower decided that the NSC should also have the benefit of these DCI briefings -- thus the Presidential directive referred to above.

3. On 17 March 1953 President Eisenhower approved Robert Cutler's recommendations regarding the National Security Council, one of which (see tab, page 6) listed the DCI with those persons who "will be in attendance at each Council meeting . . . . ."

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PLEASE RETURN THE ATTACHMENTS